



# Rivers Alliance of Connecticut

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A tax-exempt  
organization under  
501 (c) (3) of the  
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Code

TO: Commerce Committee Chairmen: Sen. Gary LeBeau and Rep. Jeffrey Berger  
And to Members of the Committee

DATE: March 12, 2012

RE: PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 15, Bill 5465

AAC THE STATE'S REGULATORY AND PERMITTING PROCESS.

*To minimize any adverse effects of state regulations on business, to streamline and expedite the state permitting and regulatory processes, to prevent the inclusion of state agency administrative fees in certain economic development grants, and to repeal the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's authority to establish stream channel encroachment lines and issue permits for encroachments upon or uses and activities within them.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Bill 5465. We believe this bill will undermine good work being done in other proposed legislation before your committee.

For example, a cost-benefit analysis of regulations would be extremely expensive and in many cases not useful. Determining that unhealthy air and water provide economic benefits (to some) might be accurate. But it would not be the basis for popular public policy in Connecticut.

On another issue, we recommend against cancelling regulation of stream channel encroachment until the state has developed a more coherent policy for deal with rising sea levels and inland flooding. The statute provides useful authority for responding to critical developments.

Thank you for your consideration,

Margaret Miner  
Executive Director